



**Lori E. Lighthouse**  
Mayor

**Department of Police · City of Chicago**  
3510 S. Michigan Avenue · Chicago, Illinois 60653

**Eddie T. Johnson**  
Superintendent of Police

6 June 2019

Emily Best  
74457-54078815@requests.muckrock.com

**RE: NOTICE OF RESPONSE TO FOIA REQUEST**  
**REQUEST DATE: June 5, 2019**  
**FOIA FILE NO.: P495926**

Dear Ms. Best:

The Chicago Police Department is in receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the following:

*"Documents mentioning or relating to Anonymous (the hacker movement/collective, see below) or hacktivism (defined as hacking as a form of protest and/or activism) generated between 1 January 2009 and 1 January 2019, including but not limited to: \* Internal reports, bulletins, warnings and alerts relating to Anonymous or hacktivism, \* Reports from the appropriate IT (Information Technology) or computer offices regarding possible cyber-attacks by Anonymous or other hacktivists, \* Reports, bulletins, warnings and alerts sent to or received from either the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, any fusion center or federal agency relating to or mentioning Anonymous or hacktivism, \* Incident reports investigating possible hacking activity falling within the office's jurisdiction and allegedly carried out by members of Anonymous or other hacktivist groups, \* Materials generated as a result of any suspected or actual compromise, breach or "dox" (revealing of personal or private information) by Anonymous or other hacktivists; Anonymous has been described by government agencies as a non-hierarchical hacktivist collective, Anonymous uses hacking (and arguably cracking) techniques to register political protest in campaigns known as "#ops." Best known for their distributed denial of services (DDoS) attacks, past activities have included attacks against the Church of Scientology; Visa, Paypal, and others who withdrew their services from WikiLeaks' Julian Assange after that group began releasing war documents; #OpTunisia and others purporting to support the Arab Spring; and a campaign that brought down the website of the Westboro Baptist Church. #Ops are usually marked with the release of a video of a reader in a Guy Fawkes mask using a computer generated voice. See attached for additional background information"*

Your request was reviewed by the undersigned. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/2 (h)(i), your request has been deemed a voluminous request which "means a request that: (i) includes more than [(five)] 5 individual requests for more than [(five)] 5 different categories of records or a combination of individual requests that total requests for more than [(five)] different categories of records in a period of 20 business days..."

In addition, section 3(g) of FOIA provides that "requests for all records falling within a category shall be complied with unless compliance with the request would be unduly burdensome for the complying public body and there is no way to narrow the request and the burden on the public body outweighs the public interest in the information." 5 ILCS 140/3(g). In order to comply with your request as written, this department would need to identify, procure and review an unknown quantity of records. Given the scope of your request, processing such a request would be unduly burdensome as written.

At this time your request as currently written has been interpreted as unduly burdensome. Pursuant to section 3(g) of FOIA, we would like to extend to you an opportunity to modify your request to make it more manageable. If you need assistance in narrowing your request, please contact me and I will assist you. Unless and until a new FOIA request is submitted that specifies what records you are seeking, CPD will be unable to process your petition. CPD encourages you to review your request to ascertain the details of your query. Once this is determined, a new FOIA request can be submitted to CPD, specifying the records you would like CPD to provide.

**Emergency and TTY: 9-1-1 · Non Emergency and TTY: (within city limits) 3-1-1 · Non Emergency and TTY: (outside city limits) (312) 746-6000**

**E-mail: [police@cityofchicago.org](mailto:police@cityofchicago.org) · Website: [www.cityofchicago.org/police](http://www.cityofchicago.org/police)**

Please be aware that your request may also be denied under Section 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(d-5) which exempts: "A law enforcement record created for law enforcement purposes and contained in a shared electronic record management system if the law enforcement agency that is the recipient of the request did not create the record, did not participate in or have a role in any of the events which are the subject of the record, and only has access to the record through the shared electronic record management system."

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at the following address:

Chicago Police Department  
Attention: Freedom of Information  
Office of Legal Affairs, Unit 114  
3510 S. Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60653

You have the right to have a denial reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, 500 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62706, (877)299-3642. You also have the right to seek judicial review of your denial by filing a lawsuit in the Cook county Circuit Court under 5 ILCS 140/11.

Sincerely,

M. Acosta  
Freedom of Information Act Officer  
Department of Police